



MOOZNEWS



Mating Commentary

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

At the time of writing we have 175 herds available for benchmarking across the practice and we expect about another 50 results to come through in the next 7-10 days. The average **6WICR** now looks like it is solidifying at 67%, with currently 20 herds at 75% or greater. The average 6WICR is 1% higher than last season.

The pregnancy rates in the **first 3 weeks** this season averaged 46%, which sits lower than the target of 54% but is 2% up on the previous season.

Some of the higher reproductive performances have come from herds in lower input systems that maintained a lower but flatter production curve after peak. This would insinuate that cows in these herds were in a good positive energy balance state ('a rising plane') through the pre-mate and mating period. Of particular note for me this season was one herd that achieved a 6.5% empty rate from a 70 day mating period. This is



quite exceptional as we see very few farms achieving less than 10% empties from a 10-week mating (10% is the target from 10 weeks). This herd had a superb protein percentage curve from the start of October (infers positive energy balance) but it must have also had very good early season cow health. These cows thus must have had

good egg and embryo quality as well as a healthy uterine environment. We often fault bull performance when empty rates are higher than expected after a reasonable 6WICR, but it may be more due to the residual population of not-in-calf cows having severely compromised fertility from factors created earlier in the season.



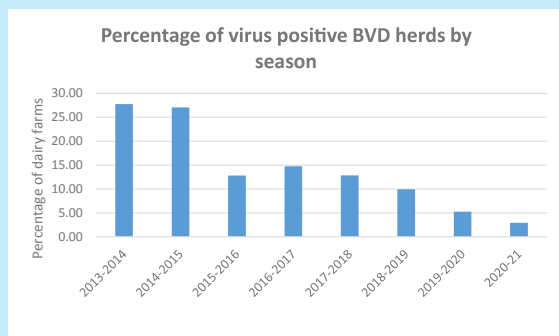
Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

BVD Bulletin



This season 210 farms in the Veterinary Centre have been testing for BVD in their bulk milk, an increase of 4 from the previous season. It is good to see this continual uptake in testing as we try to reduce the levels of BVD in our area.

The following graph shows the continual reduction in the percentage of infected herds. There are now less than 3% of milking herds that are infected. This equates to 5 herds. This is a great result and shows that farmers are taking biosecurity on their farms seriously.



Most of these herds have become infected again from young stock coming onto the milking platform. The big area that remains for BVD control is the young stock, especially when they are away are grazing. If you wish to discuss how to implement a control programme in your young stock please contact your prime vet.

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OUR CLINICS

- Oamaru** Ph 03 434 5666
- Waimate** Ph 03 689 7213
- Palmerston** Ph 03 465 1291
- Glenavy** Ph 03 689 8118
- Kurow** Ph 03 436 0567
- Omarama**
Ph 03 438 9868
- Ranfurly**
Ph 03 444 1020





Jess McKenzie, BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

When Things Go Right

Over the next two issues of GrowSmart, I am going to show you different examples of heifers that we have weighed and been involved with as part of the GrowSmart programme this past year. First up, when things have gone right.....

This is a group of 70 R2 heifers - grazed on a dryland block on the outskirts of Waimate. They are regularly weighed by the team at the Veterinary Centre Waimate who work closely with the grazier regarding feeding levels, winter grazing and administer all the animal health treatments. The owner lives some distance away and makes it down 2-3 times a year.

Drench Programme

- Regularly drenched with oral double (Arrest C) then triple combination drench (Matrix Mini-dose, once 120kgs) every 4 weeks until March 2020.
- Double combination pour-on (Eclipse) and injectable (Eclipse E) drenches used thereafter every 5 weeks until late May.
- Eclipse Pour-on given again prior to mating early September.

Trace elements

- Selenium/B12 (Prolaject) given Jan & March.
- Followed up with a long-acting selenium (Selovin-LA) to cover the next 6 months.
- Copper bullet (10g) given in February as R1's, followed by a 20g again in July.
- Long-acting selenium boosted early Sept as R2's.

Feeding

- Had a great first summer/autumn despite being dry. Grass quality was maintained and feeding levels remained adequate.
- Wintered on Kale/Baleage/Hay (60:35:5). Good crop. Once transitioned onto kale (7-10 days) feeding levels, residuals and break allocations were checked and a winter feed budget was set up.

Despite a dry summer/autumn, these girls managed to maintain growth rates on average of 660g/day throughout this period. They also had a fantastic winter maintaining average growth rates of 700g/day.

Month	Average Weight Gain/day
Dec 2019	786 g
Jan 2020	819 g
Feb 2020	606 g
Mar 2020	586 g
Apr/May 2020	654 g
June/July 2020	493 g
Aug 2020	986 g
Sept 2020	605 g
Oct/Nov 2020	934 g
Dec/Jan 2021	540 g

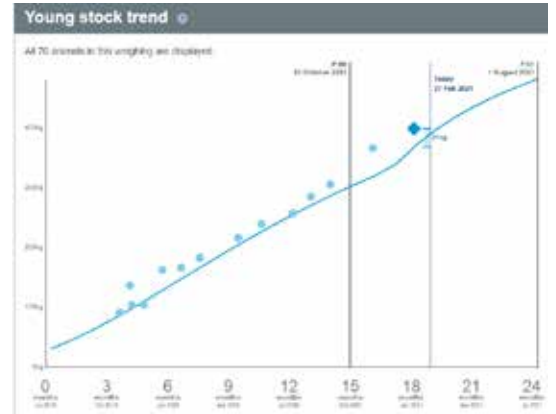
We had five lighter heifers in this mob who had struggled with poor weight gains throughout summer/autumn and were falling behind. These five were put into a mob of their own and wintered on grass/baleage (instead of crop) to give them a chance to catch up. To be fair, these heifers are currently a little above target due to a fantastic winter and a surplus of feed (we have tried pegging them back a bit which is working slowly). In other years we tend to stick more uniformly to the line, but never drop below.

TAKE HOME POINTS:

Is it possible to keep heifers on target and achieve target weights the whole way through?

SHORT ANSWER – Yes!

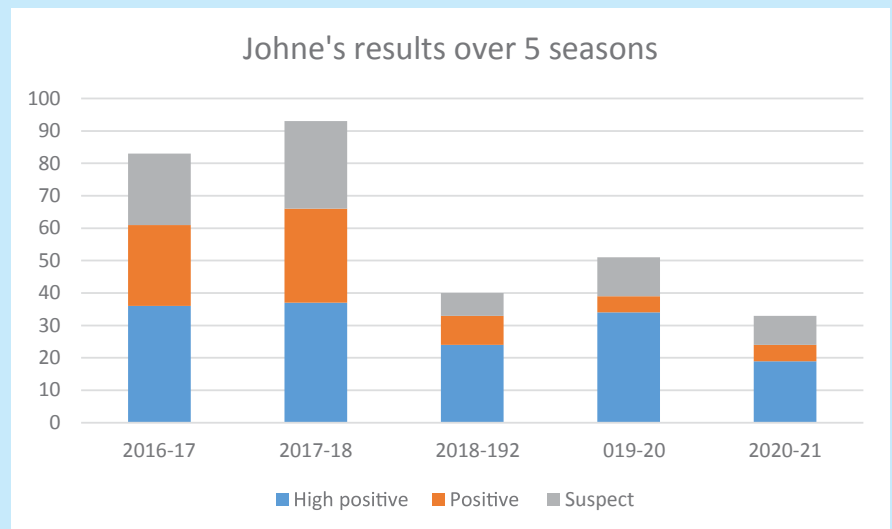
- Feeding levels are KEY** – if you don't feed them enough, they won't grow.
- Animal health is also KEY** – stick to and maintain a good animal health plan.
- Regular weighing is essential** – to monitor progress and catch any problems early.
- And last, but not least – a good relationship with the grazier is crucial**, as you work towards a common end goal. Keep in touch regularly and discuss any issues as they arise, before they turn into a problem too big to handle.



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Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Johne's News

I thought it would be interesting to show you how the Johne's results on a farm can change with time. The following farm has just completed their 5th season of testing at herd testing. It was a herd that had one of the highest levels of Johne's when they first started tested.



The farm is in a much better position than it was 5 years ago with well under half the number of cows being found. There are a couple of reasons for the increases in numbers in some years:

- Heifers coming back into the herd that have been infected in previous seasons prior to testing or with higher levels of infection in the herd.
- The farmer not being able to cull all the infected animals from the first year of testing because there were so many, they only milk about 750- 800 cows.

Big gains can be made in a few seasons with the vast majority of farms having a lot less positives than this example. There is also the massive benefit of virtually no more clinical cases of Johne's.



Red Drugs – A Year On

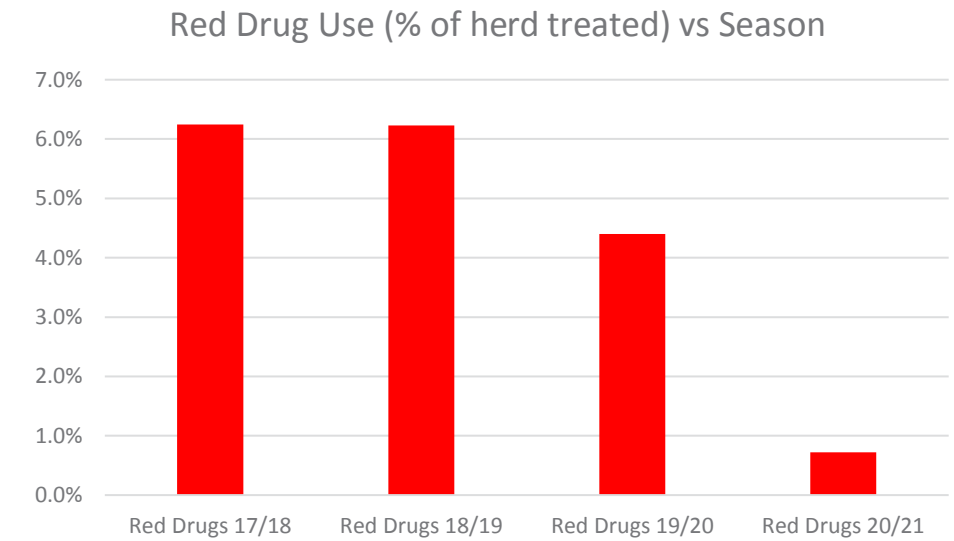
Ryan Luckman BVSc.
Waimate Veterinary Centre

In March last year we first broadcast the new prescribing guidelines for “Red Drugs” in New Zealand. As part of the WHO’s (World Health Organisation’s) fight against antibiotic resistance, the Vet Council of New Zealand had set out a framework to preserve a group of antibiotics considered “Critically Important” to human health. For the Dairy Industry this affected Tylan, Tylofen, Excede LA, Excenel RTU, and Mastalone.

As part of the framework, the official actions required by the prescribing veterinarian were:

1. Restrict use to situations where first line antibiotics have been shown to be ineffective.
2. Restrict use to cases supported by bacteriological tests or where the prescribing decision is supported by studies or references that are recent and independently peer reviewed.
3. Veterinarians must document in the record their reasons for deciding to use the antibiotic. They must document the diagnosis (confirmed or suspected) and the results of any diagnostic tests that led to the decision for treatment, the name of the product and details of administration.
4. The maximum period of supply for authorisations is 4 months for Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs)

NOTE: Cost and/ or convenience are not likely to be considered medical principles. In simple terms this meant that we could/ can only prescribe red drugs for farms where we can document or prove that



other green or orange drugs won't work. This documentation HAS to be supported by laboratory/ diagnostic tests, rather than farmer reported feedback of product failure. Steps 2-4 are essentially logistical requirements on our part, so the critical part for a farmer is to be able to prove that other drugs WON'T work if they deem it necessary to resort to using a red drug. A year on we are pleased to report that farmers have really jumped on board to support these changes. Everyone has been eager to do their part for society and worked within the framework above to ensure that

we are only using these critical drugs where they are essential. The graph above shows the use of red drugs over the past 4 seasons. This season we saw an 84% reduction in use compared to last season (and 89% reduction since 2017/18). This means we are now down to a practice average of just 0.7% of cows receiving a red drug. Note that this includes Vibrostrep use, as well as the drugs outlined above (this is often the only red drug used on a lot of farms now). This is a fantastic drop and we thank everyone for their support in the changeover year.



Footrot as a Component of Lameness

Euan Tait BVMS
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Footrot accounts for approximately 10% of lameness in the dairy herd. It is caused by bacterial invasion of the soft tissue between the claws after injury to the interdigital skin. The initial injury is often caused by stones lodging between the claws. These are most often picked up at gateways and at water troughs, or along the edges of tracks – especially later in the season as track deterioration can become an issue. Treatment of footrot is straightforward and normally very successful. Remove the stone if it is still there, clean between the claws with iodine or antiseptic and inject with procaine penicillin. Anti-inflammatories will speed up recovery too. Prevention is a more important aspect of footrot management. Foot baths are the easiest way to keep things under control.

The whole herd should be treated twice a week during risk periods with either 5% Copper Sulphate or 5-10% Zinc Sulphate. Construction of the footbath is important to ensure a successful outcome. It should allow for good cow flow and be a permanent feature of the shed exit. It should be no less than 2.5m long and no longer than 3m to ensure the cow places all 4 feet in the bath and to reduce contamination. With these dimensions, on average, 3-4 cows per 100 defecate in the bath, so it stays relatively clean. The easiest way to construct the footbath, is with concrete blocks on top of the exit race, with a drain in the lowest corner for easy emptying. The volume of the bath should be one litre per cow and should be at least 8-10cm deep. With good footbath design and targeted

prevention, footrot numbers and the concurrent antibiotic use will be kept to a minimum. Should you have any further queries about footbath design or footrot control, please get in touch with one of our Healthy Hoof Advisers.



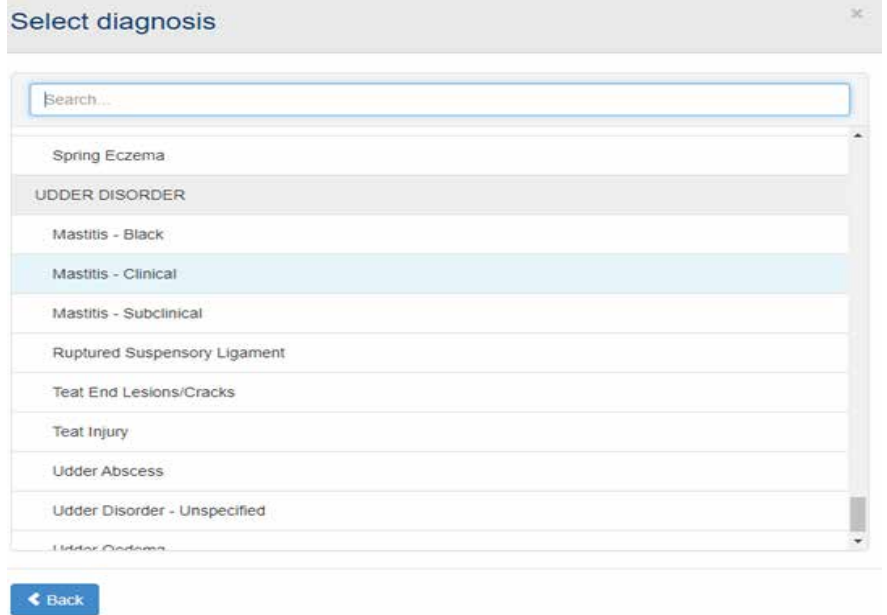
Footrot lesion



April and May are now not far away so inevitably cows will start to be dried off. As an industry we are making steady progress in reducing the amount of antibiotic used at dry off. To allow the best decisions to be made about what products can be used, ideally we would have all of the following data

- Predicted calving date (allows length of dry period to be calculated)
- Herd test data
- Her clinical mastitis cases for this season

Predicted calving dates are generated from the preg test data, and the herd test data obviously comes from herd testing, but if the mastitis cases have not been entered into ProTrack or MINDALive at the time of treatment this data will be lying in your Dairy Diary and of no real use to you apart from your shed inspections. A cow's mastitis history is a very good predictor of how likely she is to get clinical mastitis next season. If you are not recording mastitis cases electronically you will have cows that have been treated 3 or more times this season – I can almost guarantee that. These repeat



treatment cows, even with a "Rolls Royce" dry cow treatment, are likely to give you grief next season. If you (or the kids?) are entering mastitis events from your diary just enter the cow's number, date and "Mastitis-

Clinical". You do not have to enter treatment details if you do not want to (but please do) as this is already in your diary. You will suddenly identify cows that you really do not want and need to go on your "I want to cull list".

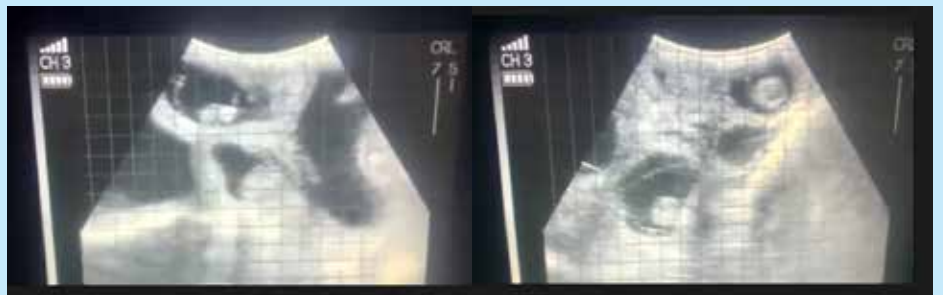
New Label Claim



Intracillin® 1000 Milking Cow is 1 g of procaine penicillin/syringe and is a green antibiotic that is a very effective treatment against the majority of cases of mastitis in cows caused by Gram positive bacteria, especially *Strep uberis*.

Intracillin® 1000 Milking Cow now has a once-a-day (OAD) label claim approved. From now on a course of 3 x 24 hourly treatments can officially be used in cows milked OAD, with a milk withholding period of 5 milkings (120 hours). Just a reminder the twice-a-day milking (TAD) with one syringe infused following each of three successive milkings (and up to six syringes, one after each of 6 successive milkings) i.e. every 12 hours, has a milk withholding of not less than 8 milkings or 96 hours following the last treatment. Meat WHP is 10 days after cessation of the last treatment.

Quads with Ryan Luckman



Well done Ryan Luckman. Ryan scanned live quads in a cow – a 1/700,000 occurrence. There is supposedly a 1/11.2 million chance of a cow delivering quads and they all live. There is a great video clip of Ryan's scanning on our Facebook page – it was a bit hard to capture four foeti on one photo frame.

Product of the month

Selovin LA

- A single injection guarantees selenium levels for 12 months.
- For heifers this ensures adequate selenium for pregnancy, calving and early lactation.
- For calves this ensures adequate selenium for growth through their first winter - 3 ml dose for 150kgs.
- Calves born with higher selenium levels have better survival rates.
- \$3.34 plus gst per 5 ml dose

